

# An Epistle to Friends.

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**D**eare Friends and Welbeloved in the Lord, unto whom my Spirit  
willeth peace and prosperitie for Ever; that as the Lord hath  
made himself manifest unto you, Even so to love him and abide with  
him, and their you will finde safetye and preservation in all danger.  
& you will not Easily be moved or shaken as to the truth which ye have  
Received, but will stand firm and sure as upon a Rock, for ye that are  
come into the Faith of the Son of God you cannot easily goe from him,  
or part with him, for you Remember the time when you wanted him,  
& the dayes and nights of mourning because you could not finde him,  
and now that he hath manifested himself unto you in his Light, and  
that ye have found him, and Received him, can you leave him, and  
forsake him to Imbrace the world again, or can you Run after any  
airy Spirit into an airy Kingdome, oh no, the true birth cryes my beloved  
is mine and I am his, with sore travel I have found him, and in diligent  
watchfulness I will wait to keep with him, for he is the chiefeft of ten  
thousand, and his love is better then wine, and so you come to sit under  
his wing, and under his shadow, and in his presenc have fulness of  
joy, and this is your satisfaction, peace and consolation, and ye cannot  
go from that to Ioyne with the enemies temptation, for ye know in  
whom you believe, and by whom you are preserved, and in him all live,  
Even in Christ Jesus, who is the Life and Substance, and so in  
him you will be Solld and weighty, and Savory and sound in Spirit  
and minde, and there ye will honour the truth in a clear and  
living testimony to Gods glory therefore keep your eye to the watch,  
that as ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, you may walk in him,  
and abide with him, for where any suffereth loss they neglect the watch,  
but as you watch in the light, you will not onely see your Enemy but  
receive power to Resist him, and in due time to overcome him and  
seeing the Enemy takes all advantages to work his work, how then  
should every one seeke after their safety & Security & stand in readiness  
to resist their Enemy. And how are all concerned to have the same  
care one over another in love and tenderne's of spirit, for it is a work  
well pleasing unto God and they are of good report who are found in it,  
and their memory is blessed for ever, and how this care hath been  
manifested in time of danger; it is witnessed by such as are preserved,  
for how hath the Enemy endeavored not onely to ensnare with the  
world, but to reign above the seed in his airy kingdom, and how hath  
some been affected with his work as having a fair likeness in a shew of  
higher discoveries, and how hath the care of brethren been manifested  
in this hour of temptation, for in the first appearance or breaking forth,  
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dazeled the Eyes of many, and they did not well know whether it was day or night? or what the Lord would doe in such a sudden change or alteration, and then was the travail of Bechren very great, as having much care of the body, and their testimony they faithfully published, and the Lord hath wrought mightily unto preservation and restoring, though sum in their own wisdom may still pleas themselves in that Kingdome, and notwithstanding the Lord hath so preserved, and restored, and given dominion over the hour of this temptation, and that the work which by the same was intended is by the power of God prevented, and the true ministry standeth, and the true worship standeth, and true unity standeth, and the holy Seed reigneth, yet it is needfull for all to be watchful, least the same spirit rise again in another likeness or form, for where he hath been bruised and soyled he will not so readily put up his head in that likeness again, but rather form some other & if the watch be not kept, the same affections may be taken again as before: for the wrong that any suffer in things of this nature is by the strength of natural affections, in which the enemy can exercise his Subtilty to deceive, and where the affections are let at liberty they will be catching at every new presentation, not regarding the ground from whence they came, and seeing that the power of the Lord God hath bruised him in this appearance, even so to watch in the power and keep him down with all his formed likenesses, and there ye will witness the conquering power and overcoming power of God, and the preservation and deliverance by it. Oh the power of the Lord which conquers & overcomes the enemy. it is a thing which is beyond expression, and yet may have a service through what is expressed, for thereby weak hands may be strengthened and feeble knees confirmed, and the poor and needy encouraged to follow the Lord, and keep the faith without wavering, and so in the power there is a going forward and a growth in grace and Godlyness, and there love and peace and unity aboundeth in the true seed, and the seed goes over the Serpents head and breake it, and overthrowes his power and strength and authority, and so the true seed comes above him, and the birth of God reioyces over him. And so all friends minde your growth in the power and virtue of God, and keep your testimony in his life and wisdom, and your judgment in a clear discerning, and let your love and respect be unto such as faithfully labours in the word and Doctrine, & give no heed to that Spirit which would perswade you to disrespect brethren, for though the faith of our Lord Iesus Christ is not held in respect of persons, as to say to the Rich sit thou hear above, and to the poore sit thou there at my footstool. Yet who be in the faith of our Lord Iesus Christ they

are taught to respect every person who be in the same faith, for how can any love one another according to Christs command, if they disrespect their persons, for love and respect are mutually joynd, but some makes a noise about men and persons, and would have people cease from man, and not respect persons, and so would cunningly overthrow love and respect amongst friends, and where the Enemy sets up this doctrine he brings in envy in stead of love, and hatred in stead of respect, & they that receive this doctrine into their beileif, they soon go out from the Saints fellowship: for God hath clothed some with his wisdom, and with power from on high hath endued them, and in body soul and Spirit hath Sanctified them, and so as Sanctified men he calls them to labour in his work, and commits the word of Reconciliation to them, and Intrusts the Gospel of peace with them, and they that cease from such men and disrespect such men, they cease from the power of God and disrespect the power of God, forasmuch as the power of God speaks in and by them: and so he hath set some in the Church who hath authority in his power and wisdom to order and Edifieit, and this is a work beyond gathering and convincing, and who are come into the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of the Son of God, and to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, they dare not disrespect his Apostles and ministers but hath unity with them in their work and Reioyces in their labour, and therefore beware of such, who wresteth Scripture from its owne Intention according to the mind of the Spirit, and let your love and respect be Enlarged one towards another; and let your words be few and savory, and in the Light walk reservedly, retiredly, for where words gusheth forth like water from a spout, the Tongue is not commanded with the bridle, and so is unruly and at liberty to speak in the abundance of superfluity, and such discourses may tickle the mindes of some hearers and cause them to admire, but as to Edification there is no Savour in them, and all hold your unity and fellowship in the light and power of God, and watch over the natural affections which are Inordinate, that so in the seed you may be kindly affectionated one to another, and in the seed feels your refreshings together in the manifestations of your unity. For the inordinate affections onely stirreth up the Inordinate part, and thereby begetteth the affections in others by its Inordinate manifestation, & though in manifestation it carries a great shew of love, yea, seemingly more then what kindly affectionated friends do manifest, yet it reacheth no further by its manifestation then onely the naturall affections, but unfeigned love reacheth the seed, and in the unity of the seed friends are refreshed one in another. And dear friends as

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concerning the present times; be not ye troubled, but keep close to the Lord and cast your care upon him, and live with him, and so the times will not concern you, neither will you concerne your selves with the times, but mind that which concerne your peace out of the times, for though you may see distress and calamitie depending as to the nation, yet you are not to concern your selves in it, but to stand still and eye the Lord, which I am fully perswaded many of you doe, and they that do not so they create their own perplexity in the multitude of their owne thoughts, therefore all keep in the faith and in the love of God and his truth, and follow peace and pursue it, and then you will be ready to receive what God permitteth in true contentment, and so be still and quiet & feel Gods peace and blessing, and there lie down and trust the Lord with all you have, and then if Nation Rise against Nation and Kingdome against Kingdome, and that there be wars or famine or pestilence, you are not troubled nor disquieted as other people whom fears Surprizeth, but rest in your inward possession and feelee Gods peace and blessing, for when calamity comes upon a nation or Kingdome because of Sin and iniquity therein, it surprises the sinner with fear because they are guilty & they are ready to take hold one of another, & yet dare not trust one another, such is their fear on every side, and if they fall in the Calamity they fall in their iniquity, and so falls in misery, but such as fears the Lord they lye down in peace, though in the same common calamity they be taken away, and therefore it is with me to say unto you as it was sayed in times past, fear not little flock for it is your fathers good pleasure to give you a Kingdom and let this be your full satisfaction, for God hath provided better things for you then what is hear below, yea, he hath provided a Kingdom and it is his good pleasure to give it you, and so your portion and inheritance is above & your riches above & your treasure above, and there let your hearts be, & let no man entice you with high words or arguments concerning the truth, for that will onely make you notionall, but keep low in Gods fear & power, and walk in the plain path, and there the Lord will meet you, and speak comfortably to you, and with his presence will refresh you, and that is the most desirable thing, and so in all things be watchfull with diligence, that as you have Escaped dangers past, even so ye may be kept from dangers to come, and then ye will finish a clear testimony to Gods glory, and receive Eternall life as your reward, and the Everlasting God of power be with you, in whose love my Spirit Salutes you and rests with you. Finally my brethren Fare ye well

